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CHARLOTTE IS NOT JUST THAT CUTE
LITTLE CLASSICAL GIRL ANYMORE PAGE 18



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NEW YORK Monday, March 25, 2013
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No summer fun in the SUN?

PAGE 02



With dangerous construction and environmental problems still left over from superstorm Sandy, will New York's beaches be open in time for swimsuit season? / AARON ADLER

'This is ... that dude from the company'

You work with these people every day, and you should know their names.
PAGE 22

Yankees trade for Vernon Wells

Former Angels outfielder fills power need, opening in left field.
PAGE 24

Why kids think Rihanna is rude

PAGE 14



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NEWS

Welcome

Check us out!

Good morning, New York City! We have a little Monday morning surprise in store for you: As you can tell from the following pages, Metro has undergone a face-lift. We've refreshed our design to make it brighter while allowing for more room for in-depth reportage and viewpoints. Why? Because we're right there with you in the commuting trenches and want to make your morning trip into the office more colorful, interesting and fun. We hope you like it.



A sign warns beach-goers at Midland Beach in Staten Island. The beach is still undergoing repairs after superstorm Sandy. / AARON ADLER

Sand trap: Are New York's beaches safe?

Surf's not up.

There's no sunny outlook for local shores as beach cops report dangerous conditions.

Six months after superstorm Sandy wreaked havoc on the city's waterfronts, officials insist all beaches will be ready by Memorial Day — but some New Yorkers aren't sure.

Firefighter Bradach Walsh, a regular surfer

Sandy damage

"Some services that may have been in place before the storm are not going to be ready by beach opening because they were so heavily damaged." **KIERNAN**

out at the Rockaways, said that July 4 "sounds way more realistic ... if at all this summer." Walsh was speaking of the concession area of the Rockaways, where all that remains in many places are concrete pillars.

And according to Parks Enforcement Patrol union

leader Joe Puleo, Staten Island beaches are a mess: a PEP officer recently ended up with a nail through his foot while on patrol at Midland Beach.

There is so much sharp detritus on the beach that vehicles are frequently getting flat tires, a Midland Beach PEP officer reported.

The Parks Department insisted the beaches will be ready for swimmers on Saturday, May 25, but allowed that things won't be back to normal right away, warning to expect "multiple service changes at each beach." "Some comfort stations had to be demolished, and we're looking at putting modulars in their place," Parks Department spokesperson Tara Kiernan said.



DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us



The National Parks Service and NYPD were at odds over how best to protect visitors at the Statue of Liberty. / SVITLANA PRADA

Debate. Parks, NYPD in dust-up over the Statue of Liberty

The NYPD and National Park Service got into a spat over the announcement of the Statue of Liberty's reopening on the Fourth of July last Friday.

The National Park Service said visitors to the monument would not be screened before boarding the ferry in Battery Park.

The NYPD issued a statement declaring the opposition to the plan.

Hours later, the Park Service and the NYPD issued a statement on their "long-standing conversation about security measures for guests visiting the Statue of Liberty."

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

News

Exonerated ex-con suffers heart attack

After only a day of freedom, David Ranta suffered a serious heart attack Friday night and remains hospitalized, awaiting surgery, according to the New York Times. Ranta was exonerated last week after serving 23 years in prison for the murder of a Hasidic rabbi in 1991. The Brooklyn District Attorney's Conviction Integrity Unit found that the evidence against Ranta "had been eroded," according to Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes. When Ranta first experienced pain Friday night, his family took him to a hospital where doctors discovered the cause of the pain: One artery was completely blocked, and another halfway closed. They reportedly put in a stent, and Ranta's lawyer, Pierre Sussman, said further surgical procedures will be required. "The toll that his years in prison have taken on David is great," Sussman said.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

News

Council could buck Quinn on sick pay vote

City Council members are considering the unprecedented move of circumventing Speaker Christine Quinn and forcing a vote on legislation requiring sick pay, which she opposes. At a hearing on Friday, Quinn's mayoral rival Comptroller John Liu invoked a little-known council provision when he called for the bill's sponsors to push the bill through even without her support. Quinn's opposition to the sick-pay bill has been a source of controversy amid her campaign. She has expressed concern it could hurt small businesses. **EMILY JOHNSON**

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Bloomberg to fund ads for gun control



Mayor Bloomberg is funding a series of anti-gun ads for Mayors Against Illegal Guns. / GETTY IMAGES

Gun control. The mayor will bankroll a \$12 million ad campaign.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a staunch advocate of tougher gun control laws, will bankroll a \$12 million national advertising campaign aimed at key members in the U.S. Senate, the mayor said in an interview with The New York Times.

The commercials to be run by Mayors Against Illegal Guns feature a hunter with a rifle, vowing to protect the right to bear arms and voicing support for comprehensive

Analysis

Ads target members of Congress

The Senate is set to begin considering gun legislation when Congress returns from its Easter recess in the second week of April.

"These ads bring the voices of Americans — who overwhelmingly support comprehensive and enforceable background checks — into the discussion to move Senators to immediately take action to prevent gun violence," said Bloomberg in a statement.

Quoted**"The NRA has just had this field to itself. It's the only one that's been speaking out. It's time for another voice."** Bloomberg

background checks "so criminals and the dangerously mentally ill can't buy guns."

The advertising campaign will run in 13 states to target specific members of the U.S. Senate during the upcoming Congressional recess, according to the organization, of which Bloomberg is a co-chairman.

Bloomberg, who leaves office in January after three terms as Mayor of New York, has championed gun control and been particularly outspoken since a gunman killed 20 students and six adults at a Newtown, Conn., elementary school in December.

REUTERS

City repairs 20,000 Sandy homes

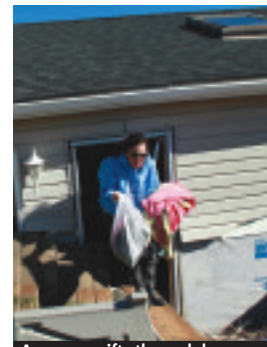
The city has completed repairs on more than 20,000 homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy, officials announced on Friday. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the Rapid Re-

pairs program finished repairing nearly 100 percent of homes, six months after the storm.

At times, he said, 2,300 workers were fixing more than 200 homes per day. The homes fixed reflect 20,000 families and about 54,000 people, Bloomberg said. NYC Rapid Repairs provides free repairs to homeowners who sign up for the program, through city-funded contractors and workers. Bloomberg also elaborated how the city will use

\$1.77 billion in federal aid that the city last is receiving.

Since Sandy, thousands of people have been unable to return to their homes. And some homes might not be salvageable. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has offered to buy waterfront land from homeowners at pre-Sandy prices, to make sure no one builds on the land again.

**ALISON
BOWEN**
alison.bowen@metro.us**A woman sifts through her mother's damaged home after superstorm Sandy in Breezy Point, Queens.**

/ ALLISON JOYCE/GETTY IMAGES

Commander to cop: Target black males

Stop-and-frisk.

A tape was the latest evidence in the stop-and-frisk lawsuit.

A secretly taped conversation by a cop revealed his commanding officer ordered him to target young black males for stop-and-frisks.

On the fourth day of the stop-and-frisk trial, Bronx officer Pedro Serrano said that Deputy Inspector Christopher McCormack told him he should stop young black males because they are the ones



A stop-and-frisk takes place.
/ METRO FILE PHOTO

Deputy Commissioner Paul Browne issued a statement declaring McCormack "did what a good commander is supposed to do — direct officers under his command to protect the public." Browne insisted that the deputy inspector was not racially profiling, and that his taped comments needed to be looked at in context.

"He was describing suspects in patterns of burglaries and robberies who were victimizing people in a specific part of the precinct," Browne said.



DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

who commit crimes. McCormack is heard telling Serrano to stop "the right people." "And I told you at roll call, and I have no problem telling you this, male blacks 14 to 20-21," he said, per The New York Times.



Sorrow at funeral for Kimani Gray

The funeral for Kimani Gray, 16, was held on Saturday, March 23, at the St. Catherine of Genoa Church in Brooklyn. Kimani Gray was shot and killed on March 9 by New York police officers for allegedly pointing a gun at them. Several days of protests and riots broke out in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, in the days following the shooting. / RAMIN TALAEI/GETTY IMAGES

Crime

Cops kill stabbing suspect

A man who stabbed his roommate was killed by police on Friday. Officers fired on Jackson Alexandre, 28, when he lunged at them, police said.

EMILY JOHNSON

Crime

Four arrested in ATM Fraud worth \$340K

Four men were nabbed on Thursday in an ATM fraud scheme that stole \$340,000 in checks from bank accounts in Manhattan, police said. EMILY JOHNSON

Crime

Search on for suspect who punched man

Cops are searching for a suspect who punched a Brooklyn man, 53, in the face multiple times last Wednesday on East Ninth Street before he fled. ALISON BOWEN



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World. John Kerry asks Iraq to stop flights carrying arms to Syria

Secretary of State John Kerry said that he had told Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki that Iranian flights carrying arms to Syria through Iraqi airspace were "problematic" during an unannounced visit to Iraq yesterday.

"Anything that supports President Assad is problematic," Kerry said. "I made it very clear to

the prime minister that the overflights from Iran ... are in fact helping to sustain President Assad and his regime," Kerry added.

Kerry also informed that President Obama felt that his talks with Israeli and Palestinian officials were the most positive he had accomplished to date.

REUTERS

Return from exile

Musharraf returns to Pakistan

Pakistan's former President, Pervez Musharraf, returned home after nearly four years of self-imposed exile to contest elections despite possibility of arrest and death threats. **REUTERS**

Alkhatib resigns

Syrian opposition head quits

Moaz Alkhatib, the head of Syria's main opposition group, resigned, weakening the moderate wing of the two-year revolt against President Bashar al-Assad's rule. **REUTERS**

Obamacare's anniversary marked by lobbying surge



Staffers for Sen. Orrin Hatch and Sen. Mitch McConnell move a huge stack of papers used as a prop in a press conference on the repeal of Obamacare. / DOUGLAS GRAHAM/CQ ROLL CALL/GETTY IMAGES

Politics. Groups are ramping up lobbying for an 11th-hour assault.

Medical device makers, health insurers, retailers and restaurants are waging what lobbyists call a coordinated effort to gain Senate Democratic support for overturning \$130 billion in taxes that will be used to fund the new law, and repealing a mandate requiring employers to provide insurance coverage for full-time workers or pay a fine.

The campaign is backed by two of the business world's lobbying powerhouses: U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business. The latter had a leading role in 2012's failed attempt to overturn the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in the Supreme

Court.

Known as Obamacare, the 2010 law will bring sweeping change to the \$2.8 trillion U.S. health care industry starting Jan. 1, 2014, including bringing health insurance to millions more Americans.

Lobbyists are gearing up for a battle against the law's costs that is likely to intensify as lawmakers shift attention to the 2014 congressional elections and the campaign donations they may need.

Those who oppose the law have joined industry letter-writing campaigns.

REUTERS

Quoted

"It's going to be a difficult battle [over] the administration's signature law."

Amanda Austin
NFIB's federal public policy director

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Survey finds readers can't identify Dickens

Literature. Fewer than 50 percent of more than 9,000 people could decipher "Great Expectations" author from the "worst writer in history."

In a blind reading test, people could not tell the difference between the work of Charles Dickens and another Victorian author, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, to more than 9,000 people.

The study, carried out by a number of leading universities around the world, showed examples of the work of Dickens and another Victorian author, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, to more than 9,000 people.

Participants were asked to identify the correct author, and only 48 percent gave the right answer.

Even when answers were filtered to include responses from students at Harvard, Yale, Oxford and Cambridge universities, the rate of correct answers only increased to 50 percent.

Bulwer-Lytton is perhaps best known for his 1830 novel "Paul Clifford," which starts with the much-parodied phrase "It was a dark and stormy night." **METRO**

And the survey says ...

48

right

52

wrong



Pictured is English novelist Charles Dickens, circa 1860.

HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

Divide the work

Study: Sharing chores equals a good marriage

Fathers who have a happy relationship with their children and who do their fair share of housework have the happiest marriages, a new American study has found. The research, found that relationships prospered when couples worked together on household chores — rather than men doing all the heavy lifting and women concentrating on cooking and cleaning. **METRO**

Too much salt risk

Harvard: Fifteen percent of deaths due to high salt

Excessive salt intake causes 2.3 million deaths per year, according to new research by Harvard University.

Harvard scientists told the American Heart Association that 15 percent of all deaths from heart attack and stroke around the world in 2010 were caused by excessive salt in the diet. **METRO**

Retrial ruling

Ruling due in 'Foxy Knoxy' murder case

Amanda Knox, the American cleared of the murder of a British woman in Italy last year, finds out today if she will face a retrial for the killing. Italian prosecutors appealed the not guilty verdict returned on Knox — dubbed "Foxy Knoxy" — and her boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito over the 2007 death of British student Meredith Kercher.

Italian judges will deliver their ruling on the prosecutor's appeal this morning. **METRO**

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In a high-tech economy, STEM education is vital to success.

/ GETTY IMAGES/FUSE

Stepping up the STEM: Change in US schools

Education.

Professor David Drew says STEM teaching needs to be reformed.

In a high-tech global economy, few people dispute the need for Americans to excel in fields that will help them compete in the world market. In "STEM the Tide: Reforming Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education in America," Claremont graduate professor of education Dr. David E. Drew tells us why the U.S. underperforms in these critical areas and suggests ways to get back on track.

Why does America perform poorly in STEM education?

The main reason is that

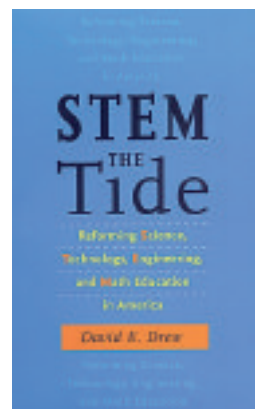
we don't support or respect our teachers as much as other countries do. In countries that outperform ours, being a teacher is a higher-status job. They have much more professional development, and they're paid more. Fifty years ago, our underperformance didn't matter that much. Now, we have a high-tech information economy, so you need different kinds of skills. You're competing not only against the person from the next town, but with people around the world.

What are our strengths?

Ironically, even though we have a weak K-12 system, we have one of the strongest higher education systems in the world. In the U.S., we believe in giving people second and third chances. Many countries



David Drew / TOM ZASADZINSKI



have rigid structures where you take a test before you're 18 and they tell you what you'll be doing when you're 45. Our system is more consistent with human nature.

How can we change the way we think about STEM achievement?

Other countries teach these subjects to everybody, and they succeed. Let me give you a metaphor: Every parent looks forward to the day their newborn will one day learn language. It is a complex cognitive task, but every person in our society does it. That's how we should be looking at STEM education.



NATALIE SHURE
letters@metro.us

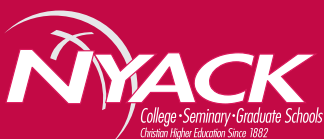
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The power of one plus the Net



Dave Stewart gets a little feline help while running his eBay business. / PROVIDED

Jobs. Could a garage of old car parts become a business? For Dave Stewart, it did.

In 2008 Dave Stewart was laid off from his maintenance tech position at a Pennsylvania nursing home. The news came as a shock and, as a result, he decided to take his career in a radically different direction.

Stewart is now one of a select few Americans that make their living through eBay. (The company claims 1.3 million sellers worldwide, but experts believe the number of individual, primary-income eBayers to be much smaller.)

"I no longer wanted to be dependent on someone else providing me with paycheck, because I saw that you couldn't rely on it as much as I did," says

Q&A

eBay is still quite remarkable



PAUL PAVLOU,
professor of
management and
information
systems at Temple
University

How has the eBay game changed in the past five years?

A lot has changed — some that's good for the individual, and some that isn't. eBay has attempted

to attract much larger sellers, and they have adjusted their model somewhat because of that. However, it's a larger platform now, and the access to the market, logistics and infrastructure is still quite remarkable for the individual.

What sells best on eBay right now?

We've seen a trend toward used cars and products for used cars. eBay Motors is now one of the most popular platforms.

Stewart, from his home in Bucks County, Pa. "I wanted to be self-employed, but wasn't quite sure how to get there."

Inspiration struck, along with a bit of luck: He discovered a stockpile

of obsolete car parts in his grandfather's cavernous garage. While his family was skeptical, Stewart was convinced there was a market for outdated parts.

"It started out as an experiment — just a few

parts on the [eBay] page. They really sold fast, and I had an inkling I was on to something," says Stewart. "Pretty soon, I had an eBay store, and I couldn't keep up with the orders."

Stewart's success isn't just luck. He operates his business with the approach you'd expect in a much larger operation. Every one of the 1,600 items in his eBay store is thoroughly researched and displayed with clear photos and descriptions.

"To be successful on eBay, you have to be a salesman. It's like other sales jobs: If you're good at it, you can make a living — but only if you're good," says Stewart. "It's all about keeping people's interest with new merchandise. You can't just let it sit there and expect to make something."



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Scott Jaschik is a co-founder of Inside Higher Ed, a website devoted to news and job postings. / PROVIDED

What education has to say online

On the Web. Inside Higher Ed's Blog U has quickly become a national hub for commentary on higher education.



Blog U writers are sometimes already established, independent bloggers; others are scholars that the site persuades to blog for the first time.

When Inside Higher Ed kicked off in 2004, the founders had a collective impulse to foster some of the best Higher Education blogs on the Web.

Now, Inside Higher Ed has become a major hub for higher ed blogs in the U.S. "To me, what we're creating is a bunch of micro-communities within our larger community," says Scott Jaschik, one of the founders of Inside Higher Ed.

"Blogs are just a lot more personal than a lot

of news stories, so it's a different way to connect with people." Currently, their featured blogs cover issues ranging from technology in the classroom to feminism on campus.

"By and large, the bloggers have complete editorial freedom. They can criticize us; they can

write what they want," says Jaschik. "I don't expect every reader to love every piece. My main goal is to give people good things to think about."



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(All events take place at Columbia University, except where noted.)

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| May 1 | NM Rounds w/Kwame Anthony Appiah, Philosopher |
| May 3-5 | NM Workshop |
| June 19-21 | International Network in Narrative Medicine (London) |
| September 20-22 | NM Workshop |
| November 12 | <i>Philadelphia, Twenty Years Later: Narrative and the Epidemic</i> |
| November 15-17 | NM Workshop |



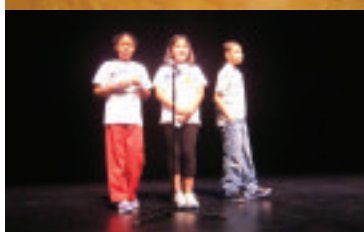
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2

CULTURE



Twitter feed

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Seth Rogen is going to eat very well soon, Jim Carrey has a very involved hobby, Justin Bieber doesn't like road trips and Alec Baldwin is giving away acting secrets.

@Sethrogen If you're like me, you're awake right now on hour 3 of 14 w/ smoking a brisket.

@JimCarrey Hunters hang animals up on their walls. I kill mosquitos but their little heads r hard to mount!

@justinbieber Back to the #longestbusrideever

@ABFoundation When playing the losing attorney in a case, always wear a suit with a vest.

1 My Chemical Romance's love affair is over

The love affair between members of My Chemical Romance is over. The emo band announced on their website on Friday that they were disbanding after 12 years.

In a statement, they said being in the band "has been a true blessing" that allowed them "to see and experience things we never imagined possible." "We've shared the stage with people we admire, people we look up to and,



best of all, our friends. And now, like all great things, it has come time for it to end." We weep over their Hot Topic-purchased coffin.

Williams 'wigs out' about new line

There is no shame in Wendy Williams' weave game — the talk show host has been wearing wigs for the past 12 years, after being diagnosed with hyperthyroidism.

And now the Wendy Williams Hair World wig line debuts in June. In a recent interview with Metro, she says the wig line will have "everything respectful that wiggies want and that newbies can get used to" and that she's out to disprove the idea that wigs are "old and tired and ridiculous."

"You don't necessarily expect a fly girl turning 50 — that'd be me — wearing a wig," she says. How you doin', indeed.



THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON

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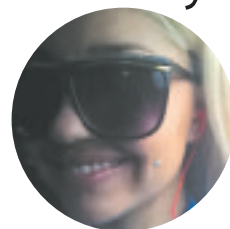
David Beckham hits China

In terms of white dudes rocking China, we're going to go with Richard Nixon at No. 1 followed by David Beckham as a close second. The soccer star flashed his tattoo (no idea what it says but I'm hoping it's something along the lines of "please lick here") to fans during his visit to Peking University on Sunday in Beijing, China. Beckham is in the country on a five-day visit at the in-

itation of the China Football Association as China's first international ambassador.



Bynes joins Twitter, is crazy



Amanda Bynes has been going crazy in New York, tweeting pictures of her recent makeover and a new cheek piercing along with bizarre and nonsensical declarations like "Baby corn and fried tofu" and "I want Drake to murder my vagina." Bynes has reportedly refused her family's requests that she move back to L.A., probably because there are just a few vagina morgues on the West Coast.

Rihanna keeps kids waiting



According to the Chicago Tribune, Rihanna kept 2,000 school children in Chicago waiting for more than three hours on Thursday. The pop star was to be there at 1 p.m. (the students gathered at noon) but Rihanna didn't stroll in until after 5 p.m. and left after 16 minutes. I will let the wise words of junior Patricia Halle close it out: "It's one thing to be fashionably late. This is just rude. Our lives don't revolve around a pop star."

Stars got slimed Saturday

{The Kids' Choice Awards were a celebrity- and goo -filled affair. Here's what went down.}

MEREDITH ENGEL/DOROTHY ROBINSON

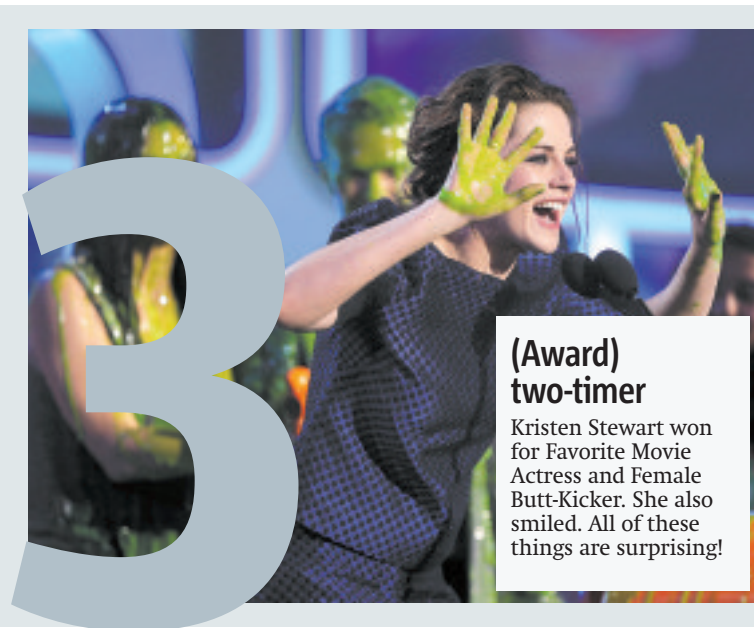
Kids love Johnny Depp

The actor won the Kids' Choice Award for Favorite Movie Actor at Nickelodeon's 26th annual soiree. Depp said he was "truly honored and humbled. Thank you for what you are, which is the future."



Ke\$ha made them scream

The singer performed along with Christina Aguilera and Pitbull.



(Award) two-timer

Kristen Stewart won for Favorite Movie Actress and Female Butt-Kicker. She also smiled. All of these things are surprising!

Perry: How sweet it is

Katy Perry was shocked when she won for Favorite Female Singer. "Stay safe, stay in school, don't do drugs," she told the crowd.



Duhamel's 'slime dunk'

Josh Duhamel wore two hats for Saturday's award show: host and slimy green sumo wrestler.



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Having a real good time with Sigur Ros?

Music. However serious their music might sound, this Icelandic band are 'not very serious people.'

At the top of the year, Icelandic post-rockers Sigur Ros announced that after 14 years, multi-instrumentalist Kjartan Sveinsson had left the band.

"I guess he's tired of touring and wanted to do other stuff," says bassist Georg Holm matter-of-factly. "It's all on a very friendly note."

Indeed, there seems to be no drama surrounding Sveinsson's departure, and the remaining trio — Holm, singer Jon "Jonsi" Por Birgisson and drummer Orri Pall Dyrason — have already recorded a new album, titled "Kveikur," which Holm says is "as good as finished."

It comes less than a year after Sigur Ros released their sixth studio album "Valtari."

"We've been very productive. We've been working quickly and having great fun. When you're having fun, it's easy to go to work. If you enjoy what you do, it's all fun. We never really stop working."



LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us



The remaining members of Sigur Ros are, from left to right, Orri Pall Dyrason, Jon "Jonsi" Por Birgisson and Georg Holm. / LILJA BIRGISSON

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By the numbers

Three to 13

Sigur Ros and the word "fun" don't exactly go hand-in-hand. Their emotionally engulfing and sometimes wrought music gives them a serious aura.

"We are absolutely not very serious people," says Holm with an insistent chuckle.

For their spring tour, the core creative trio will be augmented with strings and brass. Their set will feature 13 musicians in all.

"We actually have two extra people to replace Kjaten," says Holm. "One playing guitar and one playing piano. Yeah, it was big shoes to fill."



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The search for the real Charlotte Church

Music. You remember her as the little classical music kid, but she's all grown up now.

By age 21, Charlotte Church had dazzled everyone from the pope to the president, earning legions of fans with her angelic, operatic voice. But forever being known as a classical artist wasn't what she wanted for herself.

"It's a beautiful art form, but I just sort of found it limiting," says the Welsh singer/songwriter, now 27, who just debuted "One & Two," two EPs that are her first U.S. releases in more than a decade. "I just wanted

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way, and after a while singing somebody's else's music, I found it dull."

"One & Two" isn't Church's first crossover attempt, but it's the first one she truly believes in. She calls an earlier pop album of hers "a really s— album, a throwaway, commercial album," and says that it took so long for her to make a return to the States because "I just never felt like it was right and I never felt like I had anything really good that I really wanted to push."

During her time out of the U.S. spotlight, she had two kids, hosted a sketch television show in the U.K. and was a victim of Britain's phone-hacking scandal. She calls the renewed attention on her music, as opposed to her personal life, "incredibly liberating."

Church admits that reframing people's opinions of her and the type of music she performs "has been pretty challenging."

"It's sort of a good thing because I think that a lot of people have a lot of affection for me and my music when I was little. And, I don't know, especially over here because I've been famous for such a long time, you [become] some distant family member, or like a character in a long-running show," she says. "So it's really sweet, and I do often hear, 'Oh, you should go back to classical music,' but I don't know, I feel like I've sort of done that."

Church wrote and self-released "One & Two" on her own label, Alligator Wine. The music's haunting, gothic beats evoke the sounds of Radiohead, Bjork and LCD Sound-system. But Church says the heaviness of her new



"I've been wanting to come back to America for ages," says Charlotte Church. / JACK ALEXANDER

On talent

No strings attached

Just because Church is a singer with TV experience doesn't mean she's holding out hope for a spot at the "X Factor" judges' table.

"I'd rather poke my eye out with a sharp stick," she says. "I don't agree with shows like that. It's the wrong way to look for new talent, and I

also think it's terribly exploitative of young people. ... Everybody has an opinion and you have to be strong — and I don't think that everybody is. It's also just a weird thing to go through, to get your success via that. And all the sort of heartfelt stories that you have on everybody, it's just — you can just see the strings, you know what I mean?"

sound shouldn't be taken at face value.

"Even if you are in a happy relationship — and I've got two beautiful children — there are still certain times when life sucks," she says. "We have a masterfully complex range of emotions,

and I think even though a lot of the stuff on both EPs is kind of dark, the one thing that I sort of always aim for is ... some sound of hopefulness."



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Kate Nash indulges in a little 'Girl Talk'



Kate Nash plays the Bowery Ballroom on Tuesday, the Studio at Webster Hall on Wednesday and Music Hall of Williamsburg on Thursday.

Music. The Brit singer on her new attitude, new look and new album

Kate Nash arrived in New York two nights ahead of the February blizzard, but ran smack into the storm that is Fashion Week. Nash recorded her new album, "Girl Talk," and filmed three movie roles last year, so it's not surprising that she already has a killer promo schedule: packed designer shows and DJing Teen Vogue's party, which morphed into actress Chloe Moretz's sweet sixteen party. No jet lag slacking for the Brit singer/songwriter, that's clear.

"It's just a fun trip, really," says Nash of New York City's notoriously insane Fashion Week. If the 25-year-old sounds different this time, that's because she is.

She says the punky pop "Girl Talk" was fueled by a breakup and her all-girl band: "Women connect with each other on an emotional level in a really big way. ... That was a really important thing for

Reaching out

- **Partnership.** Nash is partnering with Plan International's Because I Am A Girl global initiative to improve the harsh lives of girls in developing countries. "You hear about horrible things in Saudi Arabia and India," says Nash.



Visit www.becauseiamagirl.us for more info.

me over the last year, what with all the personal things I was going through."

She uses the phrase "going through" in reference to the breakup.

"The record itself is basically purging for me," she continues.

Nash has also revamped her style, with the key component of that word being "vamp."

She says she's not trying to be somebody she isn't, though.

"It's about making you feel good," she says.



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As Seen On ABC & NBC NEWS



Reality

'The Voice'

Season 4 kicks off with a blind audition show. Because looks don't matter until Episode 2.

SEASON PREMIERE, 8 P.M., NBC

Comedy

'How I Met Your

Mother'

Spoiler alert: Tonight's episode will not reveal the identity of the mother. 8 P.M., CBS

Reality

'Deceived'

This new reality show is about people who've been hoodwinked by crafty liars. Do these people know that

the word 'gullible' is not in the dictionary?

SERIES PREMIERE, 9 P.M., TV ONE

Reality

'Loaded'

The horrible weather conditions in this show about truckers battling the elements to actually turn a profit are TV's best villains. 9 P.M., WEATHER

NATALIE SHURE

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Ryan Reynolds and Emma Stone voice prehistoric youngsters in "The Croods," this weekend's box office champ. / AP

'The Croods' has the goods

Box office.

Animated prehistoric film falls 'Olympus' while far fewer see 'Spring Breakers'.

Animated prehistoric adventure "The Croods," about a family of cave-dwellers fighting for survival, claimed the movie box office charts with \$44.7 million from weekend ticket sales in North America.

"Croods" dethroned two-time box office champ "Oz the Great and Powerful," which slipped to third place. The Walt

Disney Co. prequel to "The Wizard of Oz" earned \$22 million in its third weekend, per studio estimates.

In between the two family films, thriller "Olympus Has Fallen," about a White House under terrorist attack, took in \$30.5 million at North American (U.S. and Canadian) theaters.

Raunchy adult comedy "Spring Breakers," which racked up big sales a week ago in just three theaters, expanded into 1,100 theaters and took the sixth spot with \$5 million.

"Admission," a comedy starring Tina Fey and Paul Rudd, grossed \$6.4 million and took fifth place. **REUTERS**

Zen in the City

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DARE TO COMPARE?
THAT'S JUST UNFAIR

Comparing is a nasty habit. When we compare ourselves to others, we get hooked into the belief that we're better than or less than someone else. Comparing creates animosity, resentment, jealousy and competition. Living with this attitude can be detrimental to your happiness and overall sense of peace. How can you be peaceful when you're constantly comparing yourself?

Underneath the desire to compare is a deep-rooted sense that we are not enough. When we feel an unconscious sense of lack, we project that lack onto others so we won't feel so badly about ourselves. It's a vicious cycle. For instance, maybe you've been single for a while and you often compare yourself to other people who are in relationships. This act of comparing sends you into a tizzy, reiterating all that you don't have, and it makes you feel worse about yourself. Or



Feeling bad about yourself might lead to projecting that negativity on to another — but that won't make you feel any better in the long run. /GETTY IMAGES/IMAGE SOURCE

maybe you're someone who compares himself or herself to celebrities and notable figures. You always see yourself as less than, and in effect you feel incomplete. Understanding this pattern is the first step toward transforming it.

Once you're aware of your comparing habit, the next step is to take action toward changing the behavior. The moment you witness yourself compare, simply say, "The light I see in them is a reflection of my inner light." Even if you don't believe this affirmation or if you think it's too New Age-y, just try it. The action of perceiving oneness in the moment can release you of the need to compare. Even for an instant you can be set free. That is a miracle.

Practice often and pay attention to your shifts. They may be subtle at first, but you'll feel relief. Set yourself free from the comparison cycle and be at peace with who you are.



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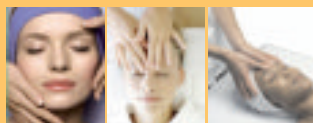
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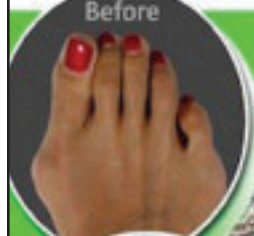
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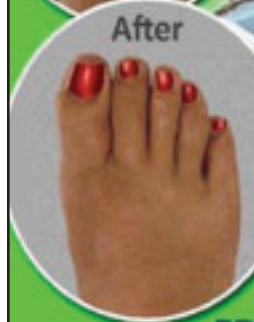
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A recipe for name recall: You can do better than 'What's your name again?'

Jobs. These tips can help you avoid that awkward moment.

Advice

Paper trail

When you get a chance, write people's names and characteristics down. Just like when you write out your science notes 535 times trying to study for an exam, the actual act of scribbling down someone's name will help to store it in your brain folds. Additionally, these records will serve as a solid backup in the event that you draw a blank. Your memory may fade, but your records won't.

"Old-what's-her-name" and "that guy" just isn't going to cut it with your colleagues. Learning people's names is not only good manners, but also good business practice for creating stronger networking connections and working relationships. Here are some tips to win the office name game:

Don't cop out

Instead of starting every meeting with "I'm sorry, I'm terrible at names," really focus when people introduce themselves. It may seem like you're giving them fair warning for your future forgetfulness, but accepting that names just won't stick is an easy out. Give yourself more credit

and stop relying on your one-liner.

Repeat it

Many people forget names

as soon as they hear them. To avoid this, when someone introduces themselves, use their name in your response. A simple "Nice to meet you, Jim" or "Hello, Sally" will help you remember who they are and makes for a more personal reply.

Ask about it

If someone has a particularly difficult name, ask them about it. Finding out a bit about them, their background and how they ended up as "Maddox" or "Apple" will not only help you get to know them better, but will also make their name more than just a few letters jumbled together.

Association

If you can't remember if your desk mate is a Jessica or a Jocelyn, then it



Blanking on names is bad form at work. You can do better. / GETTY IMAGES/EYECANDY IMAGES RF

might be time for some memory tricks. Associate the person's name with something about them. Jack is the guy who went on a cruise. Christine is the super tall blond. Al-

ternatively, you can try associating them with something that is familiar to you. Maybe Laura looks like your sister or Charles reminds you of your old professor.

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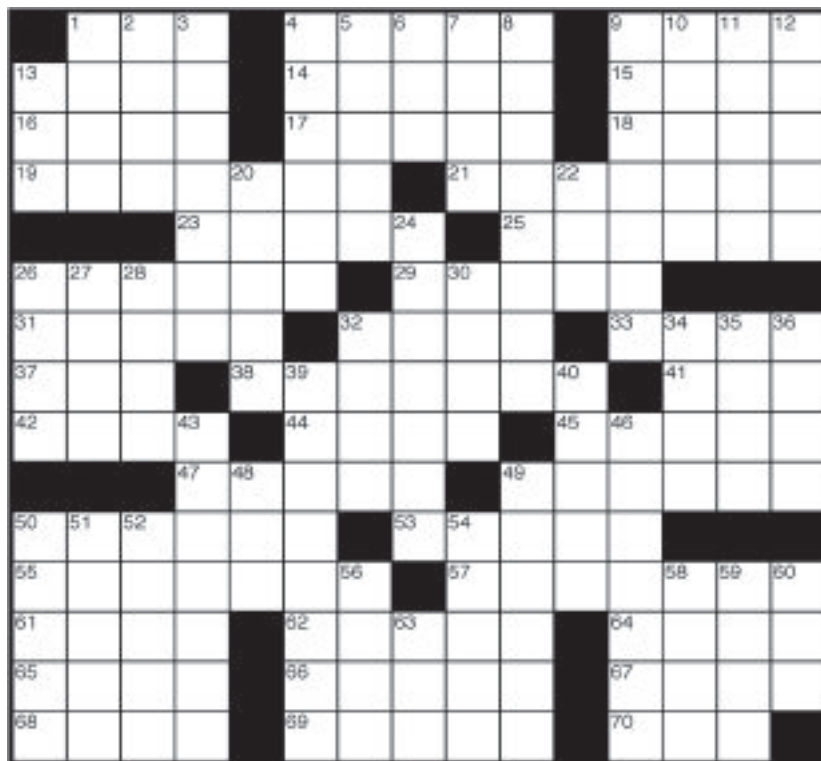
Crossword

Across

1 Marsupial pocket
4 Lightly moisten
9 Actor — Everett
13 Jupiter's wife
14 Fine violin
15 Not prompt
16 Et — (and others)
17 Familiar episode
18 Limerick locale
19 Relief pitchers
21 Formed thoughts
23 Loses hair
25 Multiplex offerings
26 Truth
29 Add one's 2 cents
31 Boadicea's people
32 Knot on a tree
33 Forum site
37 Electrical unit
38 Having luck (3 wds.)
41 Decorative scallop
42 Tower over
44 Retired
45 Buddhist king of India (var.)
47 Rap sheet info 49 Looked hard
50 Kind of year
53 Connection (hyph.)
55 Cattleys
57 Having a lease
61 Steakhouse order
62 — and aahed
64 Maintain
65 Future MD's course
66 Complain
67 Misgivings
68 "Holy cow!"
69 Snooped
70 Sixth sense

Down

1. Kirk's helmsman
2 Indigo plant
3 Fuel container
4 By a whisker
5 Revise
6 — es Salaam
7 Needle case
8 Quixote's foe
9 Butcher's knife
10 Cuba neighbor
11 Up — (stumped)
12 Acts



13 Punch
20 Grill locale
22 Immeasurable time
24 Most vinegary
26 String instr.
27 Yodeler's answer
28 The San — (NYC bldg.)
30 Nudge forward
32 Rum-soaked cake
34 Hound's track
35 Construct
36 "Oh my!"
39 Finalize (2 wds.)
40 Forum speech
43 Sugarcane harvester
46 Historic trail (2 wds.)
48 Zhou En- —
49 Ranked in tennis
50 Quick raid
51 From Tabriz
52 Toss out
54 Sherlock's lady friend

56 Carnaby Street locale
58 Currier and —
59 Lowest high tide
60 Canine warning
63 That man's

Weekend's answer



Letters

America, the land of those with strange priorities

At times, historically speaking, Americans would have to be considered weird. They will vehemently defend something despicable or deadly, like slavery or gun ownership. Even now, if Second Amendment rights are threatened, you can feel the heated passion and sense the ensuing violence. However, when they lost their homes, jobs, sons and daughters, there was a woeful whimper.

GLENN HAYES, VIA E-MAIL

is one part of society's problems. Children are not taught how to act, to understand right from wrong behavior or to be respectful of each other. Children need to know shameless behavior is not acceptable. We are not animals in the wild. We need to stop saying everything is OK. A society in deterioration is not OK. We need to stand up and call people out when their behavior is unacceptable. This goes for children and adults. It's not OK to murder anyone — whether they are little children in strollers and schools or adults at the movies. Enough of this madness!

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, VIA E-MAIL

People die alongside society

What would make a 17-year-old young man walk up, shoot a sweet little baby in the face and kill him for a few dollars? What has happened in our society that life has become so expendable, so worthless? The fact that the family structure has collapsed

Watch those backpacks

Hello my fellow train riders. Can you do me and every other passenger on the train a favor? When you have a backpack on, do you think you can be courteous and take it off and put it on the floor or hold it, because I'm tired of getting hit by it — and then you don't even apologize!

AIMEE EGAN, VIA E-MAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them a brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.



Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 -

April 20. Because you're likely to be more motivated to win than your competition, you will be the one coming out ahead. Don't let up.

♉ Taurus | April 21 - May

21. Try to take a recreational break, even though the week is just beginning. It's a healthy way of keeping away unwanted tension.

♊ Gemini | May 22 - June

20. You might not be able to get everything that you want done, but trying to do so should enable you to finalize at least two important matters to your satisfaction.

♋ Cancer | June 21 - July

22. Not only are you extremely curious about everything, you'll also be a quick study. Because there isn't much that will escape your attention, it would be good impart what you learn.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22.

Financial matters could be tricky, but you'll still be able to handle things quite well — mostly because you'll be a dab hand at improvisation.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept.

22. It behooves you to keep yourself as busy as possible, because a heavy workload will boost your productivity.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct.

22. Keep a low profile today if you find yourself involved in a commercial situation that has lots of competition. It'll help you from tipping your hand on your tactics.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23

- Nov. 21. You'll be more comfortable participating in activities with friends who don't take life too seriously than you would be with pals who don't know how to relax.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22

- Dec. 21. Enormous personal satisfaction will be gained from developments in which you have to use your mental abilities to circumvent tough

challenges.

♑ Capricorn | Dec.

22 - Jan 20. Usually it isn't advisable to offer unsolicited advice, even to a close friend. Today, however, if you have some constructive thoughts, express yourself.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 -

Feb 18. One of your greatest attributes is the ability to solve seemingly impossible problems.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 -

March 20. You might have to make a decision between several alternatives that appear to be of equal value.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy

	8		7	4		6		
	7	9				8		
3							7	
	4	2			5			
	5	1	3	6	7	2	8	
			8			5	1	
	2							6
		7				9	4	
		4		3	1		5	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.



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3

SPORTS

Yankees. Vernon Wells headed to team in late spring trade

Up until yesterday, the Yankees seemed content to go into the season with Melky Mesa or Juan Rivera in the outfield.

Instead, the Yankees have made a major trade, adding Angels outfielder Vernon Wells, according to ESPN.

Wells won't cost much in terms of talent, but the same can't be said for his paycheck. The former All

Star is due two years and \$42 million on one of the biggest contract busts in MLB history.

Well signed a seven-year, \$126 million deal with Toronto in 2008 only to see his career fall apart. He was traded to the Angels in 2011, where he batted just .218 with 25 homers. He hit .230 in just 77 games last season. **MARK OSBORNE**

Total headache

Rivera dealing with migraines

Mariano Rivera is being treated for severe migraines, according to the New York Post.

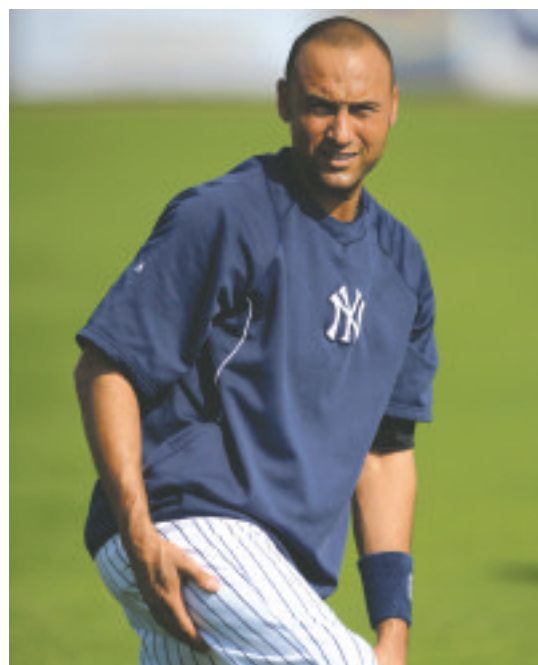
The closer has experienced headaches for weeks, but will keep pitching. **METRO**

Ilya on ice

Kovalchuk out 2-4 weeks

Devils general manager Lou Lamoriello told reporters yesterday star Ilya Kovalchuk will be out for the next two to four weeks with a shoulder injury. **METRO**

Jeter will likely start year on DL



Cashman said the Yankees are aiming to have Jeter off the DL by April 6. / GETTY IMAGES

Yankees. Shortstop scratched again due to ankle stiffness.

The news the Yankees seemed to be hinting at for the better part of a week appears to have come true.

General manager Brian Cashman told reporters in camp yesterday that shortstop Derek Jeter would likely start the season on the disabled list.

"I don't anticipate him starting the season," Cashman told reporters. "I can read his face, and his face today tells me the reality is starting to sink in that this disabled list situation might be necessary."

Jeter, 38, was scratched from yesterday's game after feeling more soreness in his surgically repaired left ankle. **METRO**

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Umenyiora nearing new deal in Atlanta

Giants. Former defensive end has moved on, wanting to play near home.

Osi Umenyiora was already gone in Giants' fans minds, but now it will be official.

Umenyiora is reportedly close to signing a deal with the Falcons. Umenyiora has spoken with the team and made it no secret he would like to sign there during a radio interview on Friday.

"The only thing I can think of, for myself personally, [better] than being able to win in New York, would be if I was able to win here at home in Atlanta," Umenyiora told 92.9 The Game in Atlanta. "So we'll see how that plays out. Hopefully, it will work out in a positive direction."

Umenyiora owns a home in Cleveland, Ga., and was raised in neighboring Alabama, where he also went to college at Troy State. Atlanta let former Jets lineman John Abraham walk in free agency.

The defensive end went through multiple contract issues with the Giants over the past few seasons. He held out of camp one day



Umenyiora had six sacks for New York last season. / GETTY IMAGES

before the 2011 preseason after complaining general manager Jerry Reese had promised to renegotiate his deal and then reneged.

But despite the contract issues, Umenyiora had a tremendous career with New York. He was drafted in the second round in 2003 and played in 13 games as a rookie. He broke out the following season when he had seven sacks. He followed that up with 14 1/2 sacks in 2004. He finishes his Giants ca-

reer with 75 career sacks and 32 forced fumbles.



MARK OSBORNE
mark.osborne@metro.us

NFL notes

A few free agent notes from over the weekend in the NFL:

- Safety **Ed Reed** signed with the Texans on Friday for three years and \$15 million.
- Starting right tackle **Sebastian Vollmer** re-signed with the Patriots yesterday.

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